Filling up of Vacancies

724. SHRIMATI OMVATI DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of E.D.D.A./M.S. and E.D.D.V./P.M. posts filled up in Darbhanga district of Madhya Pradesh from 1997 till date;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation against the violation of rules and regulation in making these appointments; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) There are no post of EDDA/MS and EDDV/PM under Department of posts. The number of posts of EDDA/MC and ED BPM filled up in the District of Darbhanga under Bihar Postal Circle from 1.1.97 till date is 28 (twenty eight).

(b) Yes Sir. Representations were received in 17 cases.

(c) Revjew of the 17 appointment cases revealed no irregularity in 16 cases. In the case regarding appointment to the post of ED MC at Bhoj Pandaul, it was found that a candidate second in the merit list as per marks, was appointed. A detailed enquiry has been ordered in this case.

Fleeing of Trees in the Khatti Dadar Forest Area

725. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Aluminium Ltd. (BALCO) set up at Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh was permitted for felling of remaining trees in block Sr. No. 4 in 1988 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining in Khatti Dadar Forest area; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving permission for felling the remaining 289 trees on 1.25 hectare land in Forest block Sr. 6 area of Khatti Dadar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The permission to fell the trees for mining in Sr. No. 4 Khatti Dadar forest area was granted by the State Forest Department without obtaining approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. For felling of trees from 1.25 ha. Forest land in Sr. no. 6 in Khatti Dadar forest land, a formal proposal in the prescribed format from State Government is necessary for approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Audit Paras Pending in PIB

726. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of audit paras pending in the Press Information Bureau for the last three years;

(b) the details of advance payments made to the officer of National Information Centre situated in the said office for the purchase of computers and its accessories for computerisation;

(c) whether audit has pointed out many irregularities in the said purchase; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the officers concerned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) One C&AC Para regarding investment in the purchase of Automatic Message Switching System made during 1991 by Press Information Bureau is included in its Report for the year ended 31.3.96.

(b) An amount of Rs. 97.52 lakhs was paid as an advance to National Informatics Centre in March, 1995 purchase of computers and its accessories.

(c) and (d) : No irregularities have been pointed out by the audit in the said purchase at (b) above.

[English]

Establishment of ITTs

727. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more Indian Institutes of Technology in the country particularly in the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Government have not taken any decision on setting up of more Indian Institutes of Technology in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Such a decision can be taken only after considering all the relevant factors.